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With the Colors 12-29-1944

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With the Colors

Dec 29,
1944

Private First Class John Bush of South Muddy township writes his wife from England. He said he had a very nice trip over and is now learning the values of English money.

"I received a letter from you today and it sure was swell to hear that everything is o. k. at home. There have been only a few letters that come here but we are expecting more soon.

"Some fellows are leaving on a pass for London today. We may all get a chance to go there. The people here are sure different than Americans. Most everything is just in the reverse of what you would expect in the U. S. A. You can only send a package over here by the request of the soldier. Please send me some cigarettes and tobacco. We can't get any American cigarettes right at the present time. You can only send a five pound package at one time.

Friends may write in care of Mrs. John Bush, Ingraham, Illinois.

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An Air Transport Command Base in Great Britain.—Sergeant Marion L. Hall, whose wife lives on Route Two, Newton, is now serving in the European Theater of Operations. He is a member of the European division of the Air Transport Command, United States Army Air Forces, commanded by Brigadier General Earl S. Hoag.

As the trans-Atlantic aerial supply line between the United States and Europe, the ATC's European division operates hundreds of cargo and passenger planes monthly, carrying important passengers, vital war cargo, the all-improtant soldiers' mail, and returning wounded American soldiers to the United States.

Sergeant Hall entered the service September 30, 1942, and received his basic training at Shepperd field, Texas. Before entering the service he was employed by the Inland Steel Company at Chicago. He is a son of Ralph E. Hall of near West Liberty.

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Fort Myers, Florida, December 27.
—Sergeant Warren E. Hunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Hunt of Rose Hill, was graduated last week from the AAF Training Command's Flexible Gunnery school at Buckingham field near Fort Myers, Florida.

Now qualified as an aerial gunner, he will soon become a member of the Army Air Forces' bomber crews. He will receive his crew training at an operational training field in the United States, and then go overseas. Hundreds of gunners are graduated each week from the huge gunnery school near Fort Myers where the shooting ranges from skeet with a shotgun to firing from a power operated turret in the huge bombers over the Gulf of Mexico.

He was formerly a student of Eastern Illinois State Teachers college, and employe of an aircraft plant in Grand Rapids, Michigna.

Gene Leo Reisner of Jewett vicinity enlisted Tuesday in the Navy's popular aircrewmen program, and thereby took the first step toward becoming a member of America's famed flying force—naval aviation.

Reisner who is 21 years old, graduated from high school where he was active in the Future Farmers of America. He has a brother who is a first lieutenant in the Army.

Young men 17 through 26 years are eligible to apply for the aircrewmen program; on application they are given aptitude and physical tests and on successful completion are enlisted immediately. Details may be obtained from high school principals or at the Naval Aviation Selection Board, Chicago.

*Dec. 22 * * * 1944*

Charles Edward Girhard is spending a twenty-one day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Girhard of Newton. He has been in Australia since December, 1941, where he has been on the staff of General Douglas MacArthur, in the signal section, where he is directly under the chief of the Signal Corps. It is his first time back in the United States since making the trip by plane just after Pearl Harbor.

Major Girhard recently received the Legion of Merit award for his fine work on the staff.

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Private First Class Gordon Stanley spent over Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lon Stanley of south of Newton. He is slowly regaining the use of his arm, which was injured in an auto wreck on Attu island in the Aleutians a year ago and is now able to lift a five pound weight with it. He is stationed at Mayo General hospital, Galesburg.

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Seaman First Class and Mrs. Maurice Michl are the proud parents of a son, born, December 17 at a Chicago hospital. He will answer to the name of Maurice William Jr.

Maurice is now stationed at a camp in California, but was able to be at home over Christmas and the holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Michl are the proud grand-parents.

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Stanley D. Robards, chief gunner's mate, and Dale D. Robards, seaman second class, spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Anderson and family in Pasadena, California. They are both in the Navy and are sons of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Robards north-east of Newton.

It was the first time they have seen one another for ever a year.

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Private First Class Irl E. Franke writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Franke of Newton, that he is well and is eating fair. He is in the Air Base Engineers in one of the two largest air fields in New Guinea and says he has been working sixteen hours a day recently because some of the men have been laid up.

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Private First Class James E. Rubsam, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rubsam of Newton, writes the Press: "I am now somewhere in the Philippines and getting along o. k. I'm looking forward to receiving the Newton Press again to catch up on the news at home."

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Corporal Clem Brinson has landed at San Francisco, California, after more than two years overseas with the Marines. He was wounded at Tarawa but had returned to duty. He is expected home in about a week, his sister, Mrs. Carl Flynn of Newton, has learned.

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Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate Scott Ross was an over Christmas guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Ross of Newton. Mrs. Ross, who has been ill for several months, is very much better. Scott is stationed at a Rhode Island naval air base.

*Dec. 29, * * * * 1944*

Private First Class Homer L. Clark has been sent overseas to somewhere in the Pacific area. He is an aerial gunner. He was employed by the Press before entering the service, and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Clark of Arcola vicinity, formerly of northwest of Newton.

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Sergeant Clayton Wright writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Wright of Newton, that he made a trip in a "40 homme et 8 chevaux" (40 horses and 8 men) box car through France and is now believed to be along the German border.

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Sergeant Paul Rubsam has been an over Christmas visitor with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rubsam of Newton. He received a leg injury in Normandy when struck by shrapnel and has been at a hospital in a Chicago suburb.

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The Press is in receipt of a Christmas greeting from Corporal George S. McColley, bearing the insignia of the Third Armored or "Spearhead" division. It was mailed in France December 1.

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Orla Houser is home for a thirty day leave with his wife and daughter, after a long period in the United States Navy in the vicinity of New Guinea. He has been gone almost two years.

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Sergeant John H. Smith spent over Christmas with friends and relatives in Jasper county. He is stationed at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, and is employed in the post office there.

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Captain and Mrs. Francis Richards of Edgewood arsenal, Maryland, and Bertrand Richards of Chicago were over Christmas guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Richards of Newton.

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William Cantwell Jr. has been spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Cantwell of Newton. He is a naval V-12 candidate at Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.

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Seaman Second Class Walter Oursler of New York is spending an eight day leave with his foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ousler of near Newton.

Yeoman Third Class Ruby J. Brackett spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Amos Dufrain of Newton. She is stationed at Olathe, Kansas, with the Waves.

Dec. 24, 1944

James Doerr is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Doerr of Newton. He is a Naval student at Alma College, Alma, Michigan.

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Corporal Lowell Cramer is spending a furlough with his wife at Newton. He is stationed at Charlotte, North Carolina, with the Army Air Forces.

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Chief Petty Officer Ira Brooks was an over Christmas visitor with his wife. He is now stationed at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

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Motor Machinist's Mate Gordon Blade spent Christmas with his wife at Newton and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Blade of Hidalgo.

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Leo Kerner Jr., has finished his boot training at Great Lakes and is home on a nine day leave.